

City of Rye-Human Rights Commission
Meeting Date: January 27, 2020

In attendance: Danielle Tagger-Epstein, Corey Stark, Amanda Witheiler, Ruth Merkatz, Alison Cupp Relyea, Adrienne Mecca, Julie Souza

Danielle Tagger-Epstein opened the meeting at 7:35 pm.

Old Business:

Danielle Tagger-Epstein reviewed the HRC's work from last year, including the creation of the 501 (C)(3). She discussed the need to have consistency of roles between the HRC and the newly formed 501 (C)(3), Friends of Rye Human Rights, Inc.

She also reported on a joint meeting with representatives from Rye Recreation and the Rye City School District regarding the summer camp application process in an effort to best serve the children of Rye.

Alison Cupp Relyea discussed the roll out of the Ally Safe Space program. A draft pledge was reviewed and a final copy will be approved at the next meeting. Julie Souza suggested meeting with the Chamber of Commerce to introduce the program.

Danielle Tagger-Epstein reminded the members of the Commission that our charter allows for 7 members and discussed the possibility of adding nonvoting members as "standbys" because achieving a quorum is often difficult. Julie Souza suggested consideration of an alternate month meeting schedule. Back up for the positions of Recording Secretary and Deputy Chair were also discussed.

New Business:

The Rye Free Reading Room has postponed the program Drag Queen Story Hour in consideration of concerns voiced by the community to a later date. Alternate programming is being considered focusing on diversity and inclusion.

Potential collaborations were discussed. The possibility of a demo garden at the Knapp House, which could include members of the community with Special Needs was reviewed.

Ruth Merkatz reviewed the Red Swing Initiative which supplies adapted swings to playgrounds. The Commission will review the feasibility of this initiative.

The Commission discussed the variability in the training coaches receive in our community which may impact how inclusive an activity may be and how the HRC can be supportive.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Submitted:

Adrienne Mecca, Recording Secretary

